

REVIEWS.

A SYSTEM OF MEDICINE. By Many Writers. Edited by SIR CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, K.C.B., Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Cambridge; and HUMPHRY DAVY ROLLESTON, M.D., Senior Physician to St. George's Hospital, London. Vol. IV, Part I, pp. 764; Part II, pp. 566. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1908.

VOLUME IV of the second edition of Allbutt's *System of Medicine* is issued in two parts, of which Part I is devoted to diseases of the liver, gall-bladder, bile ducts, pancreas, ductless glands, and kidneys, and such other disorders as infantilism, obesity, adiposis dolorosa, and œdema, while Part II comprises a discussion of diseases of the nose, pharynx, larynx, and ear. Both parts contain much new matter, as well as revision and expansion of matter published in the first edition. Dr. Arthur Keith contributes new articles on the anatomy of the liver and on hepatoptosis. Dr. William Hunter contributes a new article on delayed chloroform poisoning, and has considerably revised his article on jaundice. He is now disposed to view all jaundice as obstructive, the one form resulting from obvious mechanical obstruction independent of changes in the blood or bile (simple obstructive jaundice), the other being dependent upon changes in the bile and blood, the actual cause of the obstruction being increased viscosity of bile consequent on intra-hepatic catarrh (toxic obstructive jaundice); this comprises the cases heretofore referred to as hematogenous jaundice. The facts in support of this undoubtedly correct contention are well marshalled, and are quite convincing; but perhaps they are not applicable to that unusual and ill-understood form of jaundice known as family jaundice. Another notable improvement is in the discussion of the cirrhoses of the liver. In the original edition, Dr. Hawkins described three types of cirrhosis—the alcoholic, the malarial, and the syphilitic (a very poor classification); in the new edition two types of cirrhosis are described—portal cirrhosis, by Dr. Hawkins, and biliary cirrhosis, by Dr. Morley Fletcher. Dr. Hawkins, in an excellent discussion of portal cirrhosis, points out the undoubted etiological significance of alcohol, and suggests that the action of alcohol is indirect rather than direct—favoring perhaps the activity of some other poison as yet undetermined; but he also points out the fact that cases of

this type of cirrhosis undoubtedly occur, in children especially, but also in adults, in which alcoholism plays no part. Portal cirrhosis then appears to be definitely toxic in nature, and alcohol, although the commonest, is by no means the only etiological factor. Mr. Mayo Robson contributes the articles on diseases of the gall-bladder and biliary ducts; they are such as one expects from a universally recognized authority. The valuable article on diseases of the pancreas, contributed to the first edition of the work by Dr. Fitz, has been replaced in the new edition by articles by Dr. W. C. Bosanquet and Dr. G. Newton Pitt. Dr. Bosanquet divides the causes of chronic pancreatitis into infective, toxic, and degenerative, and doubtfully adds a fourth, mechanical cause; he believes that the disorder is frequently due to the abuse of alcohol, and that it is often associated with fibrosis of the liver; major etiological significance apparently is not attributed to disease of the gall-bladder and biliary ducts. Mild grades of the disease (commonly encountered at the necropsy) are believed to run their course without noteworthy symptoms.

The discussion of diseases of the ductless glands has been much amplified, and now contains about all that is really known of the subject. Dr. Hector Mackenzie contributes the articles on cretinism and exophthalmic goitre; Dr. George R. Murray, those on myxœdema and lymphadenoma; Dr. E. F. Trevelyan, that on akromegaly; Dr. H. D. Rolleston, those on diseases of the adrenals and the spleen; and Dr. John Thomson, that on status lymphaticus. It is interesting to observe that in the treatment of myxœdema Dr. Murray prefers the liquid preparation of the thyroid, liquor thyroidei, which he directs should be freshly prepared once a fortnight. In the intractable headache of akromegaly Dr. Trevelyan suggests the wisdom of trephining.

Professor J. Rose Bradford contributes two articles on diseases of the kidney—the one on the general pathology of the renal functions, the other on nephritis, which replaces an article on the same subject by Dr. Dickinson in the first edition. Dr. Bradford's two articles are really excellent, and well repay careful perusal, particularly, perhaps, if one may choose from such general excellence, his discussion of so-called physiological albuminuria, uremia, the cardiovascular changes of nephritis, etc.; however, the real cause of the uremic manifestations and of the cardiovascular changes is still elusive. Professor A. Macalister contributes a short article on nephroptosis, and Mr. Henry Morris articles on the other diseases of the kidneys and the ureters.

Part II of Volume IV as now issued may be said to be a complete manual or text-book of diseases of the nose, pharynx, larynx, and ear. It is somewhat unusual to include in a *System of Medicine* such a thorough and complete discussion of subjects commonly relegated to the so-called specialties, but the excellence of the result amply

justifies the editors in their decision; and assuredly the volume will be read with interest and profit by many general practitioners as well as specialists.

Of the two parts, really two volumes, one may say that they contain a good deal of new matter as well as revision of older matter—all of which assuredly represents the statements and opinions of authorities well qualified to give expression thereto. The books are worthy members of their family, and may be heartily recommended.

A. K.

SURGERY, ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. By Various Authors. Edited by WILLIAM WILLIAMS KEEN, M.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of the Principles of Surgery and of Clinical Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; and JOHN CHALMERS DA COSTA, M.D., Professor of the Principles of Surgery and of Clinical Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Vol. IV; pp. 1194; 582 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co., 1908.

THE second and third volumes of this system of Surgery were reviewed in these pages some time ago. The contents of Volume IV include: Hernia, by William B. Coley; surgery of the anus and rectum, by Robert Abbe; examination of the urine in relation to surgical measures, by David L. Edsall; surgery of the kidney, ureter, and suprarenal gland, by Joseph Ransohoff; surgery of the bladder, by Bransford Lewis; stone in the bladder, by Arthur Tracey Cabot; surgery of the prostate, by Hugh H. Young; of the penis and urethra, by Orville Horwitz; of the scrotum, testicle, spermatic cord, and seminal vesicles, by Arthur Dean Bevan; of the intestines, by Weller Van Hook and Allen B. Kanavel; surgery of the appendix vermiformis, by John B. Murphy; of the ear, by Edward B. Dench; of the eye, by George E. deSchweinitz; military surgery, by Surgeon-General Robert M. O'Reilly, U.S.A.; naval surgery, by Surgeon-General P. M. Rixey, U.S.N.; tropical surgery, by Major Walter D. McCaw, U.S.A.; and the influence of race, sex, and age in surgical affections, by William L. Rodman.

This curious collocation of articles, by which the eye and the ear are buried among the genitalia, and by which the appendix and intestines are separated from abdominal surgery by the surgery of the urinary tract, is probably due more to the dilatoriness of the authors of these misplaced articles than to any preconceived notion of the editors that the present arrangement is the best. Few of the articles in this volume are either systematic or scholarly; in many instances they appear to have been written hurriedly and with negligence, it seeming doubtful in a few cases whether the